fields of mutual interest, through activities which may include exchange of scientific and technological information, joint research projects, exchange of scientists and technical experts, convening of seminars and meetings and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be mutually agreed. Cooperative activities would be subject to the laws and regulations in each country.

US Stand on MTCR

1044. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have decided not to support development or acquisition of space launch vehicles in countries outside the Missile Technology Control Regime; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All dual use items, as interpreted by USA, which can be used in the development of rocket technology, even for peaceful applications, are banned for export. The Government of India, being fully aware of this situation, is committed to building self reliance in this area.

Indian Claim for Damages for Breach of Cryogenic Deal by Russia

1045. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to claim damage for unilateral breach of contract by Russia in respect of the Cryogenic rocket engine deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Russian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

NESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Consequent to the declaration of force majeure clause, a Russian team has arrived in India for discussions on the future course of action with respect to the Agreement.

Imminent Danger to Earth from Comets

1046. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Earth under threat from comets" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25th October, 1993;

(b) whether, according to an eminent astrophysicist of the Nehru Planetarium, Bombay, the earth is under the constant danger of being hit space-borne objects; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A number of comets and meteorites approach the earth and at times come very close to it. Apart from these heavenly bodies, smaller particles and objects having sizes upto about few centimeters constantly enter the earth's